

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, CH
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS ON CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: PEKING 464

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES USLO'S USEFUL COMMENTS ON MARCH 19 MEETING. YOU SHOULD NOW SEEK MEETING WITH HSIAO TEH TO RESPOND THAT WE ARE PLEASED AND PREPARED TO START DISCUSSIONS ON EXHIBITION. "EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS" PROCEDURE ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE TO US. WE PRESUME THAT CHINESE ARE THINKING OF SERIES OF MEETINGS AT WHICH CANADIAN-STYLE AGREEMENT TEXTS WILL BE USED AS BASIS FOR DRAWING UP US-PRC "DOCUMENTS". REQUEST YOU ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THIS IS WHAT CHINESE HAVE IN MIND. YOU MAY SAY THAT WE HAVE SEEN CANADIAN TEXTS (MEA IS MAKING THEM AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ON REQUEST) AND REGARD THEM AS REASONABLE BASIS FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS. YOU SHOULD MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS TO HSIAO:

2. AUGMENTATION OF EXHIBITION - YOU SHOULD RECALL OUR PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ADDING MORE ITEMS TO THE EXHIBITION. YOU MAY SAY THAT WE NO LONGER WISH TO REQUEST PRC CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER AS WE BELIEVE IT WOULD UNDULY COMPLICATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXHIBITION.

3. SECURITY - YOU SHOULD ASSURE CHINESE THAT THE USG

ATTACHES THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE SECURITY OF THE EXHIBITION. US MUSEUMS HAVE UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE IN PROTECTING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND SECURITY PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN UNSURPASSED -- IN TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING, FIRE PROTECTION, TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY CONTROL AS WELL AS IN PROTECTION AGAINST VANDALS. PRC MAY BE ASSURED THAT OUR SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, WITH USG AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES COOPERATING, WILL BE FAR MORE COMPLETE THAN THOSE PROVIDED FOR EXHIBITION IN EUROPE. IF ASKED, YOU MAY SAY THAT USG WILL TAKE STEPS TO RENDER EXHIBITION IMMUNE FROM JUDICIAL SEIZURE. COPY OF PERTINENT ACT P.L. 89-259 POUCHED FOR YOUR REFERENCE. (FYI WE PREFER TO LEAVE QUESTION OF INDEMNITY UNTIL LATER, AS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION APPEARS TO BE REQUIRED TO AUTHORIZE USLO TO SIGN AN OBLIGATION OF POTENTIAL USG LIABILITY IN ADVANCE OF ANY APPROPRIATION BY CONGRESS.)

4. TRANSPORTATION - PLEASE QUERY HSIAO'S MARCH 19 STATEMENT THAT CANADA WILL BEAR COSTS OF SHIPMENT FROM TORONTO TO US. WE CONTINUE TO ASSUME THAT AS RECEIVING SIDE, US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS AND SECURITY OF MOVING EXHIBITION FROM TORONTO TO US MUSEUM. (THIS IS CANADIAN MEA'S UNDERSTANDING AS WELL.) WE ALSO ARE PREPARED TO BEAR COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF RETURNING EXHIBITION TO PEKING. YOU MAY SAY THAT WE AGREE WITH PRC THAT AIR SHIPMENT BETWEEN ALL POINTS IS BEST. FOR SECURITY REASONS WE AGREE ALSO THAT SHIPMENTS SHOULD BE IN NO LESS THAN TWO AIRCRAFT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT INSURERS OF EXHIBITION WILL DEMAND MORE THAN TWO (SEVEN AIRPLANES WERE USED TO BRING CURRENT FRENCH TAPESTRY SHOW TO METROPOLITAN MUSEUM). REQUEST YOU GET CHINESE REACTION

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TO USE OF SEVERAL AIRCRAFT.

5. PRC ESCORTS - YOU MAY SAY THAT WE WELCOME CHINESE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE ACCOMPANYING REPRESENTATIVES TO 4 OR 5 AND OF COURSE WILL BEAR THEIR EXPENSES WHILE THEY ARE IN THE UNITED STATES TO ESCORT EXHIBITION. IN ADDITION, WE WISH TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE PRC TO SELECT A DELEGATION OF ARCHEOLOGISTS AND MUSEUM PERSONNEL (EITHER

INCLUDING OR DISTINCT FROM THE 4-5 MAN ESCORT TEAM) TO VISIT THE US IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBITION. THE GROUP COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING CEREMONIES AND THEN MAKE TWO OR THREE WEEK TOUR OF US MUSEUMS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS. FOLLOWING THIS, SOME OR ALL MEMBERS OF DELEGATION MIGHT, FOR DURATION OF THE EXHIBITION'S STAY IN US, WORK ON CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES OR OTHER MATTERS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL INTEREST AS VISITING SCHOLARS OF RELEVANT US INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS FREER

GALLERY. IF THE PRC IS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THIS PROPOSAL, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED BY PRIVATE US INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED, SUCH AS CSC/PRC.

6. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION - YOU MAY INFORM CHINESE THAT WE AGREE TO THEIR PROPOSAL THAT ONE ORGANIZATION HOST EXHIBITION THROUGHOUT ITS STAY IN US AND THAT SIGNING OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS PROTOCOL TAKE PLACE IN PEKING. WE WOULD PREFER THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US SPONSORING ORGANIZATION TRAVEL TO PEKING TO SIGN PROTOCOL AFTER TEXT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON THROUGH PRC-USLO NEGOTIATIONS. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE VALUABLE AS PUBLICITY AND AS DEMONSTRATION OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CHARACTER OF EXHIBITION.

7. NATIONWIDE TOUR - YOU SHOULD TELL CHINESE THAT WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND TOUR OF EXHIBITION AND PERMIT SHOWING IN MORE THAN ONE CITY. WE PLACE HIGH VALUE ON THIS EXPRESSION OF FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD WILL. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE IN NO WAY WISH TO MAKE DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER AN ITEM OF CONTENTION OR EVEN A TOPIC FOR NEGOTIATION. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, ASK

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THAT PRC GIVE CONSIDERATION TO INCREASING EXHIBITION'S TOUR FROM SIX TO NINE MONTHS AND FROM TWO TO THREE CITIES. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF IMPACT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC, WE BELIEVE BENEFITS TO PRC WOULD BE VASTLY INCREASED BY THIS RELATIVELY SLIGHT EXPANSION OF TOUR. IT WOULD ENABLE US TO SHOW EXHIBITION NOT ONLY ON URBAN EAST COAST BUT ALSO IN OTHER AREAS OF UNITED STATES WHERE PUBLIC ATTITUDES ARE KEY FACTOR IN US FOREIGN POLICY BUT WHERE POPULATION HAS RELATIVELY FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPOSURE TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS SUCH AS THIS. IN ADDITION, INTENSE INTEREST ALREADY SHOWN IN EXHIBITION BY ALL ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN PUBLIC IN ALL PARTS OF NATION WILL MAKE IT MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO SELECT ONLY TWO CITIES, AS THIS UNAVOIDABLY WOULD DENY BULK OF MID OR FAR WEST POPULATION ACCESS TO EXHIBITION. AND EXPANSION OF

TOUR FROM 2 TO 3 CITIES ALSO WOULD PROVIDE CONVENIENT
ACCESS TO EXHIBITION FOR FAR GREATER NUMBERS OF CHINESE-
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